US $ 534 billion in 2002. A liberal FDI policy regime, and investment facilitation mechanism is in place to attract FDI into India.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister...

श्री सभापति: पहले क्वेश्चन नंबर बोलिए। कौन से क्वेश्चन का जवाब चाहते हैं और बैठ जाइए।

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, in the Rajya Sabha, the hon. Finance Minister had assured, while referring to the observation of Shri Arun Shourie that 287 steps were needed to clear any FDI proposal in the country, that these 287 steps will be reduced to 2-3 steps. What steps have you taken to reduce them to 2-3 steps?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Employment in projects of foreign companies

*203. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foreign companies implementing their construction projects in the country are to employ local experts and skilled workers;

(b) whether foreign experts and skilled workmen are brought from abroad as per the conditions laid down by the World Trade Organisation whereas there is no dearth of experts and skilled workmen in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir, foreign construction companies also employ local experts and skilled workers to execute their projects in India.

(b) and (c) As per our existing commitments under the General Agreement on Trade in Service (GATS) at the World Trade Organization (WTO), access is available only for employees at the level of Managers, Executives and Specialists of foreign juridical persons who are transferred for a temporary period to a branch or a representatives office of that firm in India or an Indian firm under its ownership or control. In addition, access is available for short term visits of independent professionals on the basis of a specific service contract with a juridical person in India. The requirements of foreign firms, if any, of bringing in foreign experts and skilled workers are met after due consideration by the concerned immigration authorities.

Ban on advertisements of liquor and tobacco products on TV

*208. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a ban on advertisements of liquor and tobacco products on TV channels;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some manufacturers of liquor are advertising their brands showing their subsidiary products of the same name; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to stop advertising liquor brands to discourage consumption of liquor and tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Advertisements on all TV channels when transmitted/re-transmitted through the Cable Television Network are required to adhere to the Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Advertising Code *inter alia* prohibits advertisements, which promote directly/indirectly production, sale or consumption of cigarettes, tobacco products, wine, alcohol, liquor or other intoxicants.